

PRE-COMMISSIONING INFORMATION

The following information is a brief summary of various entitlements unique to the world of "New Construction". We here at the Pre-Commissioning Unit in Bath, Maine have tried to identify all pertinent entitlements for which crewmembers might be eligible. If you do not find the answer to a question you have regarding pay/travel entitlements listed below, **please contact the PCU Personnel Office at (207) 442-5077/5050/5040(FAX).**

Personnel assigned to New Construction duty are normally assigned under either **Accounting Category Codes (ACC) 106 or 352**. The ACC that is written in your orders assigning you to a Pre-Commissioning Unit/Detachment will determine entitlements for pay, travel, per diem, household goods and family housing assignment policy. Listed below, you will see the various regulations and entitlements that are determined by the ACC that is written in your PCS orders.

1. ACC: 106 – For Duty In Connection With Conversion and Fitting Out (FORDUCFO):

- Will be assigned to either the construction site, (commonly referred to as the Pre-Commissioning Unit – PCU) or to Pre-Commissioning Training Atlantic or Pacific located at Fleet Training Center (FTC) Norfolk, VA or San Diego, CA, respectively. (These sites are commonly referred to as the Pre-Commissioning Detachments – PCD's.)
- Entitled to move dependents and household goods at government expense to the PCU or PCD location. 106's are also eligible to get on the Family Housing List for the military base in the vicinity of this location.
- Should married crewmembers elect not to move their families to the construction site here at Bath, ME, government quarters will be provided at no charge to the member. Geographical Bachelors will normally be berthed at the Combined Bachelor Quarters (CBQ) onboard the Naval Air Station Brunswick, ME which is located approximately 5 miles from Bath, ME.
- Personnel assigned ACC 106 **are not eligible for per diem** at the PCU or PCD.
- Personnel assigned to the PCU will receive a new set of PCS orders 4 – 6 months prior to Ship Custody Transfer (SCT) transferring them from the PCU to USS, Homeport:....., ACC 100 (For Duty) effective on the date of SCT. These orders are the members' authorization to move dependents and household goods to the ships' homeport as promulgated by the official homeport message from CNO. In the case of single members and GOB's who have a vehicle at the PCU, they are entitled to drive their POV to the new homeport and are also entitled to a return airplane ticket back to the PCU.
- Personnel assigned to the PCD will receive a new set of PCS orders 6 – 8 months prior to SCT transferring them from the PCD to the PCU in ACC 352 (Temporary Duty In Connection With Conversion and Fitting Out) for less than 180 days and ultimately to USS....., Homeport:....., ACC 100 (For Duty) effective on the date of SCT.
- Personnel assigned 106 to the Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) **ONLY, Sea Duty Commencement Date (SDCD) for rotational purposes only**, will start on the date of reporting to the PCU. Under current Navy policy, you will receive up to 12 months credit for sea rotation purposes.
- **Family Housing Assignment Policy at the Ultimate Homeport of the Ship:**
 - a. Personnel assigned to the PCU – The control date will be the date the Housing Office receives your application, **after** the official naval message from the CNO is released designating the ships' homeport.
 - b. Personnel assigned to the PCD – The control date will be the date the Housing Office receives your application, **or** the date of the official naval message from the CNO is released designating the ships' homeport, **whichever one is later.**

Geographical Bachelor Travel (GOB):

Personnel who elect not to move their dependents to the construction site - PCU only, will be eligible for Geographic Bachelor (GOB) Travel beginning on the 31st day after reporting onboard the PCU with subsequent visits every 60 days thereafter. This entitlement is from the construction site – PCU to the address shown for the member's dependents on his/her Record of Emergency Data (Page 2). Either the member or the family may travel. The member can save accrued GOB entitlements so that 2 or more family members may travel together. (If 2 family members traveled together, the entitlement would occur on the 91st day after the member reports and every 120 days thereafter.) This entitlement is for round trip transportation only. Should the member elect to drive, reimbursement will be \$.375 per mile but will not exceed the cost of a government procured commercial plane ticket. No per diem, lodging, tolls or miscellaneous expenses are authorized. In most circumstances leave or special liberty will be used in connection with GOB travel. Entitlement to GOB travel stops on the date the ship departs the construction site.

- Other pay entitlements:
 - a. **Family Separation Allowance (FSA)** – No entitlement to FSA because your dependents were entitled to be moved at government expense.
 - b. **Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)** – Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) will be paid based on the Zip Code of your permanent duty station. In cases, where family members reside elsewhere, the Commanding Officer may authorize BAH to be paid at the rate applicable to that location.
 - c. **Career Sea Pay (CSP)** – Career Sea Pay (CSP) does not start until Ship Custody Transfer (SCT), the date the ship officially is turned over to the U.S. Navy.

2. ACC: 352 – Temporary Duty In Connection With Conversion and Fitting Out (TEMUDCFO)

- Personnel assigned ACC 352 to the PCU/PCD are generally assigned for less than 6 months prior to Ship Custody Transfer (SCT) and may be eligible for per diem. Advance per diem is normally paid in no more than 30 day increments. You will be paid 100% of your estimated lodging cost plus 80% of the Meal & Incidental Expense (MIE) rate for that time period. The amount payable for per diem is determined by the availability of Government Quarters/Messing. Personnel residing in the Combined Bachelor Quarters onboard NAS Brunswick, ME will be paid the Proportional Meal Rate (PMR) of per diem for meals. Per Diem is not payable when you are on leave, TAD or underway. Entitlement to per diem stops on SCT.

Effective 17 September 2002, N130 – Compensation and Policy Coordination branch at Naval Personnel Command has approved payment of per diem to Direct Accession Personnel (DAC's) assigned ACC 352 at the “construction site”, i.e. Bath, ME ONLY!!.

Direct Accession Personnel (DAC's) assigned to ACC 352 at the PCD's **are not** eligible for per diem. DAC's are personnel who have not had an initial permanent duty station and are still proceeding through the training pipeline, i.e. Recruit Training Command to “A” School to Pre-Commissioning Training – Atlantic/Pacific to Pre-Commissioning Unit Bath, ME and finally to their Ultimate Duty Station being USS, Homeport:, ACC 100 (For Duty). Reviewing the PCS Accounting Data on individuals' orders can easily identify DAC's. When you review the accounting data on the individuals' orders and see the following **17_1453.2250**, they are DAC's. (**2250** in the accounting data identifies DAC's)

- ACC 352 personnel **are not** authorized to move dependents to the construction site – PCU and **are not** eligible to be placed on the Family Housing List at the military base in the vicinity of the construction site. ACC 352's are authorized to move dependents/household goods to the designated homeport of the vessel after it has been commissioned as promulgated by the official homeport message from the CNO.
- **Family Housing Assignment Policy at the Ultimate Homeport of the Ship:** The control date will be the date of detachment from the last permanent duty station **or**, the date of the official naval message from the CNO designating the ships' homeport, **whichever one is later.**
- **Geographic Bachelor Travel (GOB):** Personnel assigned in a 352 status **are not** authorized Geographic Bachelor Travel (GOB) **until** 31 days after Ship Custody Transfer (SCT) and then every 60 days thereafter. This entitlement ends on the date the ship departs the construction site.

- **Privately Owned Vehicle (POV):** If your Last Permanent Duty Station (LPDS) is in the same geographical area as Official Homeport of the Ship as announced by CNO or **you have been TDY in the same geographical area as the Official Homeport of the Ship as announced by CNO, you have NO ENTITLEMENT** to get your POV back to the homeport of the ship. i., e. travel pay, travel time or a one-way return plane ticket back to the PCU. **If you meet these criteria we recommend that you DO NOT drive your POV to the PCU.** You will bear the expense of getting your vehicle back to the ship's homeport entirely out of pocket including the use of leave to get your POV back to the ship's homeport - if approved by the chain of command.
- Another issue associated with POV's at PCU Bath is parking. Only 106 personnel assigned to the PCU are permitted to park in the PCU/SupShip parking lot. Due to our proximity to BIW, parking is severely limited in Bath. There are numerous private parking lots with waiting lists or street parking that is limited to 2 hours per day between 0600 – 1600. Meter maids from the Bath Police Department patrol regularly and will issue parking tickets for cars that exceed the 2 hour time limit.
- Other pay entitlements:
 - a. **Career Sea Pay (CSP)** – Career Sea Pay (CSP) does not start until Ship Custody Transfer (SCT), the date the ship is officially turned over to the U.S. Navy.
 - b. **Family Separation Allowance (FSA)** - ACC 352 married members may be authorized FSA.
 - c. **Basic Allowance for Housing With Dependents (BAH-D)** - Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) will be paid based on the Zip Code of your last permanent duty station. In cases, where the members' dependents reside elsewhere, the Commanding Officer may authorize BAH to be paid at the rate applicable to that location.
 - d. **Basic Allowance for Housing Without Dependents (BAH W/O)** – **See attached table.**
BAH(W/O) has always been a very contentious issue for sailors assigned to "new construction". Rules/regulations concerning a sailor's entitlement to BAH(W/O) during the "pre-commissioning" process are explained on the next several pages.

BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (BAH W/O)

The regulations for Basic Allowance for Housing Without Dependents – BAH (W/O) can be quite confusing, especially when TDY is involved. **Effective 1 Jan 2003**, all single personnel regardless of pay grade are entitled to BAH Without Dependents when on PCS orders. This entitlement is from the date of detachment from the last permanent duty station until the day prior to reporting to the new permanent duty station. When TDY is involved, personnel are eligible for BAH for the first 30 days when government quarters are available. BAH will be paid at the last permanent duty station rate. For current BAH rates go to: <http://www.dtic.mil/perdiem/bahform.html>

More importantly in the “Pre-Com” world when a sailor’s (E-4, 4 or more year’s service and above) last permanent duty station and his new permanent duty station, i.e. “Official homeport as designated by CNO”, are in the same geographical area, that sailor is entitled to continuous BAH, so long as he/she continues to maintain that residence. A copy of your lease, rental agreement or mortgage statement must be furnished to the Personnel Office. You will be required to sign a Page 13, certifying that you are continuing to maintain this residence.

Generally, Personnel E4 – less than 4 year’s service and below assigned to a ship do not have an entitlement to BAH Without Dependents. There are a couple of exceptions. (1) Military Married to Military couples commonly referred to as Mil to Mil assigned to sea duty simultaneously. **Effective 1 October 2003, the Navy has changed this policy.** NAVADMIN 059/04 promulgates this policy change. Click on the hyperlink for this information. <http://www.bupers.navy.mil/navadmin/nav04/nav04059.txt>. All the conditions of NAVADMIN 059/04 must be met for both members assigned to sea duty. The second exception is listed below and was recently clarified by N130.

“BASIC RULE OF THUMB” - If your last permanent duty station (LPDS) and the homeport of the ship aren’t in the same geographical area and you’re TDY, i.e. 352 at the PCD which is in the same geographical area as the homeport, you don’t have an entitlement to continuous BAH (W/O) until ships’ custody transfer (SCT).

Listed below are entitlement decisions rendered by N130 - Compensation and Policy Coordination (Military Pay Policy) Branch at the Naval Personnel Command concerning various BAQ (W/O) questions.

28 Jan 2005

Clarifies paragraph 4 of NAVADMIN 184/01, <http://www.persnet.navy.mil/navadmin/nav01/nav01184.txt>

Scenario:

Member is an E-4 (less than 4 years’ service);
Member performs PCS transfer from shore to sea in the same geographical area;
Member authorized BAH(W/O) at Last Permanent Duty Station(Shore Duty).

Question: Is E-4 (less than 4 years’ service) eligible for BAH(W/O) at New Permanent Duty Station (Ship)?

Answer: Federal law prohibits E-3’s and below from receiving a BAH entitlement while on sea duty. An E-4 (less than 4 years’ service/greater than 4 years whichever) previously on shore duty receiving a BAH Entitlement, subsequently receives orders to a ship located in the same geographic area (meaning the sailor can commute on a daily basis) may be eligible to continue the BAH entitlement, **provided the sailor has the CO’s approval.**

18 Dec 2002

1. The first question concerns BAH (W/O) entitlement when a sailor is TDY.

Question: In accordance with DODFMR Vol. 7A; DLT 26-3; Rule 14; in the absence of a “Certificate of Non-Availability” (CNA), are “government quarters” considered to be available for BAH (W/O) purposes?

Answer: Yes, in the absence of a “Certificate of Non-Availability” (CNA), government quarters are considered available and a sailor would be entitled to BAH (W/O) at the TDY site for only the first 30 days.

2. The second question concerns BAH (W/O) entitlement at Ships’ Custody Transfer (SCT)/Delivery.

Question: In accordance with DODFMR Vol. 7A; DLT 26-3; Rule 8; Footnote 14; is a new construction vessel considered to be “deployed” at Ships’ Custody Transfer (SCT)/Delivery since the ship isn’t at its’ Homeport?

Answer: No. In accordance with SECNAVINST 3111.14V, the ships’ homeport goes into effect on the date of Ships’ Custody Transfer (SCT)/Delivery. BAH (W/O) will be started for the location of the homeport on this date.

3. We have attempted to simplify the regulations pertaining to BAH (W/O) or Single BAH by creating several tables to explain these regulations.

a. Rules 1-4 pertain to BAH (W/O) entitlement for personnel at the PCD.

Rule 1 – For the single sailor who is **ACC 106** at the PCD. Their last permanent duty station (LPDS) and the location of the PCD **are** in the same geographical area.

Important reminder: E-6 and above have the entitlement to BAH (W/O) at a permanent duty station and don’t require CO’s approval.

Reference: DODFMR Volume 7a, paragraph 260201, Table 26-3.

Rule 2 – For the single sailor whose last permanent duty station (LPDS), location of the PCD and Homeport of the ship **aren’t** in the same geographical area. **Sailor is ACC 106 at the Detachment.**

Important reminder: E-6 and above have the entitlement to BAH (W/O) at a permanent duty station and don’t require CO’s approval.

Reference: DODFMR Volume 7a, paragraph 260201 and Table 26-3, Rule 10.

Rule 3 - For the single sailor in ACC 352 status at the PCD. Their last permanent duty station (LPDS), the location of the PCD **AND** the ships’ homeport are in the same geographical area.

Reference: DODFMR Volume 7a, paragraph 260201, Table 26-3, Rule 14.

Rule 4 – For the single sailor, E-4 (less than 4 years’ service) and below in ACC 352 status at the PCD.

b. Rules 5-9 pertain to BAH (W/O) entitlement for personnel at the PCU.

Rule 5 – For any single sailor who is ACC 106 at the PCU.

Reference: DODFMR Volume 7a, paragraph 260201, Table 26-3, Rules 1 & 8.

Rule 6 – For the single sailor, E-4 (4 or more years’ service) or above whose last permanent duty station (LPDS), location of the Detachment and Homeport of the ship **are** in the same geographical area. **Sailor is ACC 352 at the Detachment and PCU.**

Reference: DODFMR Volume 7a, paragraph 260201 and Table 26-3, Rule 14.

Rule 7 - For the single sailor in any pay grade whose last permanent duty station (LPDS) **is not** in the same geographical area as the Detachment. **Sailor is ACC 352 at Detachment and PCU.**

Reference: DODFMR Volume 7a, paragraph 260201 and Table 26-3, Rule 14.

Rule 8 - For the single sailor, E-4 (4 or more years’ service) or above whose last permanent duty station (LPDS) **is** in the same geographical area as the Detachment. **Sailor is ACC 106 at Detachment and ACC 352 at the PCU.**

Reference: DODFMR Volume 7a, paragraph 260201 and Table 26-3, Rule 14.

Rule 9 - For any single sailor, E-4 (4 or more years’ service) whose last permanent duty station (LPDS) **is not** in the same geographical area as the Detachment. **Sailor is ACC 106 at Detachment and ACC 352 at the PCU.**

Reference: DODFMR Volume 7a, paragraph 260201 and Table 26-3, Rule 14.

BAH WITHOUT DEPENDENT WHILE AT PCD					
Rule#	Member is	Old PDS was Norfolk/San Diego	ACC 106 at PCD Norfolk/San Diego	The: BAH accrues	BAH does not accrue
1	In any pay grade	Yes	Yes	If member continues to maintain residence established at last PDS in Norfolk/San Diego area. (See Note 1)	If member assigned Government Quarters, i.e. BEQ/BOQ OR contract berthing.
2	In any pay grade	No	Yes	If member has approval of Base Commander to reside off-base AND the member doesn't reside in Government Quarters. (See Note 2)	1. If member assigned Government Quarters, i.e. BEQ/BOQ OR contract berthing. 2. Does not have approved request to live off base. (See Note 2)
3	In pay grade E-4 (4 or more year's service or above.	Yes	No	1. If member continues to maintain residence established at last PDS in Norfolk/San Diego area. (Note 1.) If member does not maintain residence in Norfolk/San Diego then: 2. If Government Quarters is available for the first 30 days. 3. If member is issued Certificate of Non-Availability (CNA), for the time period of the (CNA). (BAH @ LPDS rate) (See Notes 3 & 5)	After 30 th day of residing in Government Quarters if available OR Government Quarters are available after the 30 th day. (See Note 3)
4	In pay grade E-4 (less than 4 years' service) and below	Yes	No	a) If member occupies Government Quarters OR Government Quarters is available for the 1 st 30 days. b) If member issued a Certificate of Non-Availability (CNA), for the time period of the (CNA) . (BAH @ LPDS rate) (See Notes 3 & 5)	After the 30 th day of residing in Government Quarters OR Government Quarters are available after 30 days. (See Note 3)

BAH WITHOUT DEPENDENT WHILE AT PCU						
Rule #	Member is	Old PDS was Norfolk/San Diego	PCD Norfolk/San Diego	PCU Bath	<i>Then: BAH accrues</i>	BAH does not accrue
5	In any pay grade	N/A	N/A	106	If member has CO's approval to reside ashore; the member does not live in government quarters or contract berthing.	If member resides in government quarters or contract berthing. (See Note 5)
6	In pay grade E-4 (4 or more years' service) or above	Yes	352	352	<p>a) If member continues to maintain residence established at last PDS in Norfolk/San Diego area. If member does not maintain residence in Norfolk/San Diego then;</p> <p>b) If member occupies GQ or GQ is available for the 1st 30 days.</p> <p>c) If member issued a Certificate of Non-Availability (CNA), for the time period of the (CNA). (BAH @ LPDS rate) (See Notes 3 & 5)</p>	If member does not continue to maintain residence in Norfolk/San Diego; <u>OR</u> after the 30 th day of residing in Government Quarters <u>OR</u> Government Quarters are available after 30 days. (See Note 3)
7	In any pay grade	No	352	352	<p>a) If member occupies GQ or GQ is available for the 1st 30 days;</p> <p>b) If member issued a Certificate of Non-Availability (CNA), for the time period of the (CNA). (BAH @ LPDS rate) (See Notes 3 & 5)</p>	After the 30 th day of residing in Government Quarters OR Government Quarters are available. (See Note 3)
8	In pay grade E-4 (4 or more years' service) or above	Yes	106	352	<p>a) If member continues to maintain residence established at last last PDS in Norfolk/San Diego area. (See Note 1)</p> <p>If member does not maintain residence in Norfolk/San Diego then;</p> <p>b) If member occupies GQ or GQ is available for the 1st 30 days.</p> <p>c) If member issued a Certificate of Non-Availability (CNA), for the time period of the (CNA). (BAH @ LPDS rate) (See Notes 3 & 5)</p>	If member does not continue to maintain residence in Norfolk/San Diego; <u>OR</u> after the 30 th day of residing in Government Quarters <u>OR</u> Government Quarters are available after 30 days. (See Note 3)

BAH WITHOUT DEPENDENT WHILE AT PCU						
Rule #	Member is	Old PDS was Norfolk/San Diego	PCD Norfolk/San Diego	PCU Bath	<i>Then: BAH accrues</i>	BAH does not accrue
9	In pay grade E-4 (4 or more years' service) or above	No	106	352	<p>a) If member continues to maintain residence established at last last PDS in Norfolk/San Diego area. (See Note 1)</p> <p>If member does not maintain residence in Norfolk/San Diego then;</p> <p>b) If member occupies GQ or GQ is available for the 1st 30 days.</p> <p>c) If member issued a Certificate of Non-Availability (CNA), for the time period of the (CNA). (BAH @ LPDS rate)</p> <p>(See Notes 3 & 5)</p>	<p>If member does not continue to maintain residence in Norfolk/San Diego; <u>OR</u> after the 30th day of residing in Government Quarters <u>OR</u> Government Quarters are available.</p> <p>(See Note 3)</p>

Note:

1. Location of old PDS and PCD must be in the same geographical area.
2. E-5 and below must have Commanding Officer, Naval Station's Norfolk or San Diego authorization to reside off base.
3. In the absence of a Certificate of Non-Availability (CNA), Government Quarters are considered available.
4. BAH(W/O) is paid at the rate applicable for the Homeport of the ship, effective on date of Ship's Custody Transfer.
5. E-4 (less than 4 years' service) and below aren't entitled to BAH(W/O) when assigned to sea duty. BAH(W/O) stops at SCT.